

Amendment No. 2 to SB2277

**Crowe
Signature of Sponsor**

FILED

Date _____

Time _____

Clerk _____

Comm. Amdt. _____

AMEND Senate Bill No. 2277

House Bill No. 2061*

by deleting the preamble in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

WHEREAS, while TennCare and West Tennessee are providing mental health care through a community based mental health and substance abuse care system, more care is needed for the number of citizens seeking such care; and

WHEREAS, the statewide TennCare Partners health plan to serve the mentally ill does not serve the best interests of recipients in West Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, estimates indicate 15,000 seriously mentally ill children, adolescents and adults living in West Tennessee need mental health care, but are not seeking services; and

WHEREAS, sixty-three percent (63%) of West Tennessee TennCare enrollees are African American; and

WHEREAS, West Tennessee is requesting additional state aid to fund special projects to transform their community based mental health and substance abuse care systems to make them more culturally competent; now, therefore,

AND FURTHER AMEND by deleting all language following the enacting clause and by substituting instead the following:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 33, Chapter 1, Part 1, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section:

Section 33-1-1__.

(a) The department of mental health and developmental disabilities shall establish and implement a pilot project in the western grand division of the state. The pilot project shall be established to enable the county governments in such grand division to:

- (1) Provide information to the African-American community to improve understandings of mental illness, stigma and treatment options;
- (2) Partner with local African-American pastors and other appropriate religious and community leaders to "get the word out";
- (3) Supervise provision of counseling and other support services in religious and nonprofit community settings, including in black churches;
- (4) Employ and train indigenous "community navigators" to conduct outreach efforts;
- (5) Implement pilot projects to integrate primary care and behavioral health services;
- (6) Improve the care continuum for high-risk youth in the city school system operating in such county; and
- (7) Provide linkages to the county juvenile and criminal justice systems.

(b) To fund such pilot project for the 2007-2008 fiscal year, there is appropriated to the department of mental health and developmental disabilities the sum of one million five-hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000).

(c) The department is authorized to promulgate necessary rules and regulations in accordance with the uniform administrative procedures act, title 5, chapter 5, to implement the provisions of this act.

SECTION 2. For purposes of promulgating rules and regulations to implement this act, this act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it. For all other purposes, this act shall take effect July 1, 2007, the public welfare requiring it.